

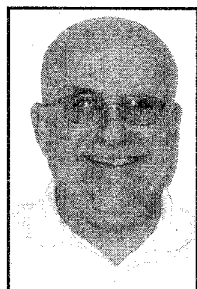
FARMER & MINER

Volume 81

Issue 14

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2007

Keeping kids safe in vehicles



DAVE PUCETTI
FIRE CHIEF

Additionally, children exposed to deployed air bags are twice as likely to suffer significant injury as children not exposed. To ensure children riding in vehicles are protected, the Frederick-Firestone Fire Protections District Firefighters urge all children be properly restrained for their age, height, and weight; infants, until they are at least 20 pounds and at

least 1 year old, be in a rear-facing child safety seat; toddlers, until they are about 40 pounds or age 4, be in a child safety seat facing forward; and children, until they are about 80 pounds or age 8, be in booster seats.

All children under 13 years old should ride in the back seat of the car for increased safety and older children should use lap and shoulder belts.

Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District has six firefighters certified by the National Highway Safety Transportation Administration to perform car seat inspections. Child car safety seat inspections can be conducted by one of our certified firefighters at any Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District fire station.

Child car safety seat Inspection Clinics are held four times a year during the community

safety days programs. The next child car safety seat Inspection Clinic will be May 5 at Station 3, located at 6800 Tillbury Ave. off of Firestone Boulevard near Frontier St. The child car safety seat inspections are a free service provide by the Freder-

ick-Firestone Fire Protection District. More information can be found at www.carseatscolorado.com.

If you need further assistance, contact the fire district administration at 303-833-2742.

To our readers

The opinion section of the Farmer & Miner is an outlet for you, as readers, to inform others of your opinions on a variety of subjects. Whether your comments reflect on this publication specifically, current political issues or social and business issues that affect our community, we want to hear them. We welcome your contributions and hope you will continue to use this space.

Letters should be limited to 300 words or less. Political letters will be run as space permits, giving a balanced coverage to both sides of the issue. Self-endorsements by candidates running for office and political action groups will be passed on to our advertising department.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, grammar, length and potential libel.

You may mail contributions to:

MetroWest Newspapers, 139 N. Main St., Brighton, CO 80601
e-mail: letters@metrowestnewspapers.com; or fax: 303-659-2901.

In this month's article, I would like to discuss the importance of the child car safety seats.

Motor vehicle injuries were the leading cause of death among children in the U.S. From 1996 through 2005, more than 3,800 child occupants between the ages of 4 and 8 died in traffic crashes. About 50 percent of those 3,800 children were unrestrained. Of those restrained, most were improperly restrained in a seat belt that was designed for adults, rather than in a child car safety seat or booster seat.

Children inappropriately restrained in seat belts are 3.5 times more likely to suffer abdominal injury and four times more likely to suffer head/brain injury than children appropriately restrained in booster seats.